



## PARRA NOTES

Friday, April 22

Greetings! If you're reading this, we are off to a great start. I have been looking for a more informal way to keep you posted on some of the issues and legislation affecting the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. From now on, every Friday, you will be receiving in your mail boxes some of the notes I've made during the week. I promise that in the future my notes to you will not be as long.

### Capitol Update

It's been an exciting week. I always enjoy meeting with groups and constituents from the district and this week was no exception.

Among some of the folks I got to meet with were **Visalia** Superintendent **Stan Carrizosa** and Assistant Superintendent **Mark Fulmer**. **Diane Duquette** Director of the **Kern County Libraries** also stopped by my office this week. On Wednesday I had a great time as I got to have lunch with **40** amazing young women from **Hanford, Bakersfield, Delano** and various other cities from the **Central Valley**. They were all in the Capitol to take part in **Latina Action Day**. Their energy and enthusiasm reminds me of why I do what I do.

### Legislative Session

As you know, the legislative session began on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. From then until May, bills are introduced and heard in various committees. If all committees responsible for reviewing a bill approve it, then it goes before all Members of the Assembly for vote. As the session continues, I will keep you posted on the status on the bills I have introduced.

### **STATUS OF THE BUDGET**

At present we are waiting for the May revise to be released by the Governor. We expect some significant changes to his original budget proposal. Many of you who are a part of my Advisory Groups are especially interested in this issue so I will make sure to keep you posted as things develop.

### **STATUS OF THE BUDGET SUB 4 COMMITTEE**

This year I was appointed to the Assembly Budget Committee which is composed of five sub committees. Each covers an array of issues ranging from health care to education to state administration. I am one of five members sitting on the Budget Sub 4 Committee which is responsible for overseeing the budget of various state agencies.

In the past few weeks we have reviewed the budget for the Department of Corrections, the Department of General Services, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and CalPERS. Many items have been held open until the departments provide the committee with more information as to how they are spending the dollars that have been given to them

### My Legislation Update

I am happy to report that seven of my bills, **AB 1110, AB 706, AB 649, AB 490, AB 460, AB 439 and AB 437** have successfully passed through committee in the past two weeks. **AB**

**434** has passed through the Assembly and is on it's way to the Senate. Below is a brief summary of these bills.

**AB 1110 Home to School Transportation Block Grant** will require that home-to-school transportation be given desperately needed funding.

**AB 706 CSU Whistleblower Protections** will allow the Cal State University system to shield an employee's identity and confidentiality when filing a complaint to avoid retaliation.

**AB 649 Tomato Commission** will provide that the commission shall establish an assessment for tomatoes produced inside and outside of the state.

**AB 490 Notice to Bid** will give schools more flexibility in selecting the best contracts by expanding the bidding pool.

**AB 460 State Veterinarian Inspections** will strengthen the ability for the State Veterinarian to implement quarantines to stop any outbreak from spreading.

**AB 439 Sex Offenders** will clarify existing law regarding registration responsibilities. Makes it clear that an individual must continue to register as a sex offender even if their conviction is expunged.

**AB 437 Conviction Date** will require that an individual's conviction date be made available on the Megan's law database.

**AB 434 ESA and HAS Savings Accounts** will require California state chartered credit unions to allow individuals to open tax sheltered accounts specifically for health care and education.

## Other Highlights

### **TEEN AWARENESS SUMMIT**

I will be hosting this summit today, Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. at the Delano High School Auditorium. This summit is a collaborative effort involving local community organizations to address teen pregnancy issues. Parents are encouraged to attend with their teenagers. For more information please call (661)334-3745.

### **VALLEY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

The Valley Leadership Institute will take place on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Applications will be accepted until April 29<sup>th</sup>. Individuals interested in the Institute should contact Teresa Plascencia at (559) 585-7170, or by e-mail at [Teresa.Plascencia@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Teresa.Plascencia@asm.ca.gov).

### **HIGH SPEED RAIL WORKING GROUP**

With the support of Congressman Jim Costa I have recently formed the High Speed Rail Group. The Group has received wonderful support from various Assembly Members and State Senators who have eagerly signed on to take part. I will continue to keep you posted on any new developments.

### **GRANTS**

Beginning late June my office will be distributing grant packages for those interested. Included in the package will be information regarding, state, federal and private grants. For more information please contact Jeff Forbes at (559)585-7170 or by e-mail at [jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov](mailto:jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov) .

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